

Commonly Asked Questions

Wouldn't it be cheaper to build fewer ships with more missile tubes?

The Navy conducted a detailed force structure analysis during the requirements development process.

Reduced SSBN force number options did not meet at-sea and nuclear employment requirements, increased risk for force survivability, and limited flexibility to respond to an uncertain strategic future.

A 12-ship, 16-missile tube SSBN force has sufficient, not excessive, flexibility and capacity and satisfies national strategic deterrent requirements in a cost efficient manner.

If we need 12 submarines, why is it acceptable to drop to 10 for so many years?

From 2029 to 2042 as the Ohio class retires and Ohio Replacement SSBNs join the fleet there are no major SSBN overhauls planned. Operating with 10 SSBNs introduces additional operational risk but the Navy can meet its requirements with a force of 10 SSBNs for this limited period of time.

As Ohio Replacement SSBNs begin mid-life overhauls in 2049, 12 SSBNs will be required to meet operational requirements while the class conducts planned shipyard maintenance.

Why not build an SSBN with a Virginia class hull and a missile compartment insert? Or, why not build new Ohio class SSBNs since they were such an effective platform?

A formal Analysis of Alternatives considered both a Virginia class submarine with an added missile compartment and Ohio class production restart to fulfill the SSBN mission.

An SSBN based on a Virginia hull would require more than 12 ships to meet operational requirements, require refueling, increase personnel costs, and increase vulnerability to projected threats through the 2080s. A Virginia class based design would lead to a more expensive and less capable SSBN class.

Similarly, rebuilding Ohio class SSBNs would save on design costs, but would not have sufficient stealth to stay viable out to the 2080s, and construction of more Ohio class SSBNs would not be able to take advantage of efficiencies of modern construction techniques.

Leveraging 50+ years of SSBN design and operational experience, the Ohio Replacement SSBN is a cost-effective recapitalization of our Nation's Sea-Based Strategic Deterrent.



OPNAV N97

Sea-Based Strategic Deterrent Branch Head

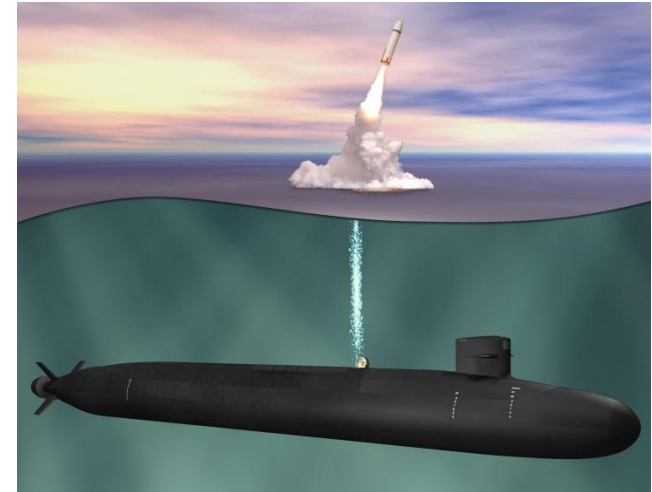
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Ohio Replacement SSBN

**21st Century
Capability in an
Affordable Platform at
Responsible Cost**



OPNAV N97

Undersea Warfare Division

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Strategic Deterrence is a National Imperative

"As long as these [nuclear] weapons exist, the United States will maintain a safe, secure, and effective arsenal to deter any adversary, and guarantee that defense to our allies..."

- **President Obama** (April 2010)

U.S. strategic deterrence promotes global stability

- Prevents coercion by threat of nuclear attack
- Prevents proliferation of nuclear weapons
 - Assures non-nuclear allies and partners we will respond if attacked

SSBN force is survivable leg of U.S. nuclear triad

- A survivable deterrent can impose unacceptable consequences even after being attacked
- 2010 Nuclear Posture Review confirmed the enduring requirements for a survivable sea-based deterrent
- SSBNs will be responsible for ~70% of deployed nuclear warheads under the New START

Effective sea-based strategic deterrent

- SSBNs are undetectable when submerged.
- Provide adequate range to allow operation far from adversaries in broad ocean areas
- Designed with state-of-the-art stealth to remain undetectable into the 2080s



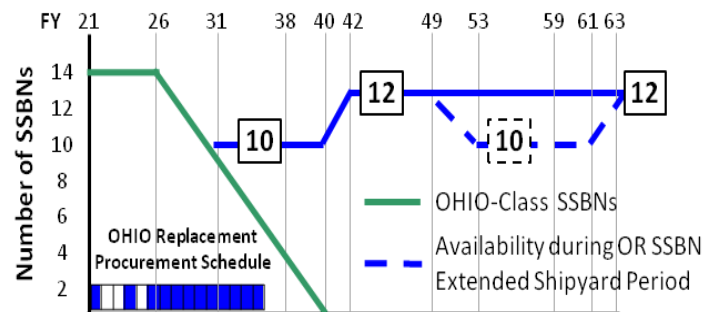
SSBNs Provide the Nation's Survivable Nuclear Deterrent

Ohio Replacement provides 21st Century Capability...

Current Ohio class SSBNs are reaching end of life

- Commissioned between 1984-97, their lifetime has already been extended from 30 to an unprecedented 42 years
- 12 Ohio Replacement SSBNs needed to meet operational requirements during mid-life overhaul period to maintain 10 operational SSBNs
- Lead Ohio Replacement construction must begin in 2021 to commence its first Strategic Patrol in 2031
- Procurement timeline meets U.S. Strategic Command requirements with moderate operational risk during the transition period

SSBN Force Structure



Ohio Replacement SSBNs will provide the Nation's survivable nuclear deterrent through the 2080s

- 12 SSBNs, each with 16 TRIDENT II (D5) missiles and a 42-year service life
- Sufficient survivability to address projected future threats into the 2080s
- Life cycle design to ensure 12 ship operational and material availability meets at-sea requirements
- Leverages Virginia Class submarine capabilities

Maintaining a "secure and effective nuclear deterrent" is our first priority.

Chairman's (General Dempsey) Assessment of the 2014

...in an Affordable Platform, at Responsible Cost

SSBN procurement is a significant investment made once every 40 years; however, the Navy is aggressively working to reduce costs

- Already reduced \$1.5B/ship in construction costs and \$3B in design costs from FY11 plan
- Nuclear reactor that will not require refueling
 - 12 Ohio Replacement SSBNs provide same at-sea presence as 14 Ohio SSBNs saving \$20B (CY10) over the life of the class
- Ohio Replacement re-uses and re-hosts current submarine systems to the maximum extent possible
- Ohio Replacement will build on the success of the Virginia class construction program through collaboration with industry to leverage modular construction techniques, cost reduction initiatives and other shipbuilding efforts



The Common Missile Compartment (CMC) for Ohio Replacement and UK Successor SSBN continues 50 years of US and UK strategic cooperation

- CMC designed under US/UK cost-share agreement
- The United States is committed to meet UK need date (2028)
- CMC efforts are critical to both US and UK strategic deterrence